

We Republicans are going to fight for rural America, even though the Democrats say, give it up.

LET US PASS H.R. 1660, A SCHOOL MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

(Mr. McNULTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, several years ago we seemed to realize that classrooms around this country were overcrowded, and we decided that we needed smaller class sizes. The Democrats proposed funding for 100,000 new teachers to go out all across the country to teach our children.

After much wrangling, and in a rare moment of bipartisanship, we finally passed the funding to provide for those new teachers. Now we have the first wave of them, tens of thousands of new teachers going out across the country. Guess what, there is no place for them to go. There are no classrooms for them to teach.

Now we have proposed, on the Democratic side, something to correct that situation, a school modernization program, so that the classrooms are available for all these new teachers. Mr. Speaker, I do not want these new teachers to be instructing our children in hallways, broom closets, and trailers. Let us pass H.R. 1660.

IT IS THE SAME OLD NONSENSE, THE LEFT HATES TAX CUTS

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, how is it that creating new spending programs will not blow a hole in the deficit, but tax cuts will? Liberals accuse Republicans of fiscal irresponsibility for passing tax relief, and yet they call us extremist in every single attempt we make to hold the line on spending.

During the 1980s, in the Reagan years liberals insisted that social spending not be cut. Not only that, they insisted that spending on social programs increase at levels far higher than the rate of inflation. Then they turned around and blamed President Reagan for the deficits.

During the 1980s, tax rates were cut but tax revenues doubled. Members heard that right, tax rates were reduced but the economy boomed so strongly that revenues increased. In fact, they doubled. Yet, liberal Democrats blamed the deficits on the tax cuts.

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It is the same old line. The left just hates tax cuts, plain and simple.

BETTER SCHOOLS NEEDED FOR OUR NATION'S GREATEST ASSET: OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, this morning I proudly join my colleagues in signing the discharge petition H.R. 1660, the School Modernization Construction Act.

As a member of the freshman class, I have organized numerous 1 minutes and Special Orders to allow us to share with our Republican colleagues the stories from our own districts: the overcrowding, the crumbling buildings, the rapid school-age population growth. Whether they are urban, rural, or suburban, schools across our Nation need the help of Congress in addressing the infrastructure problems.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot accept that the only action taken by Congress this year to help our schools is a small arbitrage provision contained within the recently passed tax bill.

This provision will not provide assistance to our beleaguered school system and could result in delays in school construction and modernization projects for more than 2 years.

We can fix our highways. We can rebuild our bridges. Why do we sit by and do nothing about the infrastructure that houses our Nation's greatest assets, its children.

We need to help our school districts by providing them with interest-free bonds to build new facilities and to improve the existing structures now, not 2 years from now.

Mr. Speaker, before, one of our colleagues said who pays the taxes. I forgot, our children in public schools do not pay taxes. But their families do.

AGRICULTURE CRISIS

(Mr. EWING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, American agriculture is in a crisis, bad weather, terribly low commodity prices caused from lost markets, markets closed to our farmers, and excessive world production.

This has caused real financial stress, and it is serious. We could lose 10 to 20 percent of our family farms. The ability to produce a safe and sufficient food supply is necessary for a stable society.

What must this Congress do? We must pass the Improved Crop Insurance bill, which allows higher leverage of coverage for our farmers. That is not all. We must open market. We must make available necessary credit resources. We must improve the tax program for our farmers' inheritance tax and capital gains. We must reform our regulatory system which is such a burden to our family farmers.

Let us show our American farmers that we care and that we care about agriculture.

GET OUR PRIORITIES STRAIGHT; PROVIDE CHILDREN WITH WELL-EQUIPPED CLASSROOMS

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to be among the Members signing a discharge petition to bring school modernization tax credits to the House floor. I come from the Triangle district of North Carolina, where quality education is valued and where a trained work force is a necessity. Yet thousands of our students are going to school in hundreds of trailers.

The school modernization bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) would address this need. I am also cosponsoring with 90 other Members the School Construction Act introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), especially targeted to high growth areas like the one I represent.

Our approach is nonintrusive. We are providing tax credits to bondholders. We are not telling local authorities when or how to build. But we are saying to local communities, as they take on these obligations, that the Federal tax code will help them stretch their scarce dollars further.

Let us get our kids out of trailers and into modern, well-equipped classrooms, where teachers can teach and students can learn. Let's get our priorities straight.

HELP OUR FARMERS DURING CRISIS

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, agriculture in this country has very serious problems. It is the second year in a row that we had low commodity prices. Profits for farmers are 30 percent below what they were just a couple of years ago. We can lose maybe 10 percent of our family farms this year.

We have got to come up with some Federal help. We have got to come up with an emergency bill this year. It might be as high as \$6 billion or \$7 billion or \$8 billion if we want farmers in this country to continue producing the highest quality, lowest priced food in the world. If we lose our farmers and become dependent on other countries, we will have serious problems. Other countries will be able to dictate price and quality.

A couple things in the tax bill that the conferees approved yesterday that help farmers: estate tax relief so farmers do not have to sell their farms to pay taxes, above-the-line health deductions so farmers and other self-employed can be like everybody else and not have to pay taxes on what they pay for health insurance; an increase in the amount allowed for first-year depreciation so if farmers buy machinery, they